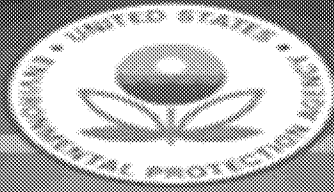


From: Bowles, Jack [Bowles.Jack@epa.gov]
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State & Local

MARCH 21, 2019

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CURRENT AND UPCOMING

EPA Meeting with Stanislaus Council of Governments (CA)

On Tuesday, March 26, Mayor Jeramy Young (Hughson, CA), Chair, StanCOG Policy Board, and Rosa De Leon Park, Executive Director, will meet with OW, OIR, and Region IX to discuss two priorities: **(1)** Federal, State, and Other Resources to support the Regional Surface Water Supply Project (RSWSP) that is led by the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority; and, **(2)** Funding for Groundwater Infrastructure in Small Towns and Municipalities. Dialogue will explore the Clean and Drinking Water SRFs; WIFIA; and resources and tools identified by the Water Infrastructure & Resiliency Finance Center.

StanCOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the Stanislaus region of California. It works to address regional issues including, but not limited to: transportation and infrastructure, air quality, water, and economic development. Member agencies include Stanislaus County and the Cities of Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock, and Waterford.

The Regional Surface Water Supply Project will provide a safe and reliable high-quality treated surface water supply to supplement supplies for project sponsors and consumers to help meet the long-term drinking water needs of the region. Currently, the Project is estimated to cost \$278 million, which includes the design and construction of the Project facilities and local improvements required by both cities to integrate this new supply into their existing water systems. Ceres' portion of this cost is approximately \$100 million and Turlock's portion is approximately \$172 million. An additional \$6 million will be contributed by the Turlock Irrigation District for its' portion of the Project. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

City of Dubuque Presentation on Bee Branch Creek Restoration and Flood Mitigation Program

On Wednesday, March 27, Mayor Roy Buol will lead a presentation on the successful completion of the Bee Branch Creek Restoration and Flood Mitigation project. The project was supported by partnerships with a number of Federal Agencies, most notably, EPA, along with HUD, EDA, USACE, Interior, and US DOT. The City considers EPA most critical in the success of the project, and appreciates support from all levels of government.

Mayor Buol will walk the audience through design, development and construction of the mile-long restored creek and linear park. Located in Dubuque, Iowa and situated in the City's most at-risk and historic neighborhoods, the Bee Branch Creek restoration and flood mitigation program is a \$219 million project

aimed at restoring the homes, businesses and neighborhoods inundated by six Presidentially declared flash flood disasters over a twelve year period of time. From conceptual design, public engagement, funding, construction and now restoration and programming, this project informs those interested in community revitalization, green infrastructure, water quality, storm water management, funding opportunities and federal, state and local government collaboration and more. The presentation is intended to show the completed project, discuss effectiveness, resiliency and the City's next phase of restoration and recovery from the devastation of flooding. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

Meeting with Imperial County (CA) Officials

On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, officials from the Imperial County, California, Board of Supervisors will meet with HQ intergovernmental and regulatory program staff as well as regional personnel to discuss developing plans, as well as prospective sources of funding, for a range of projects proposed to protect and restore the Salton Sea, a shallow endorheic rift lake located directly on the San Andreas fault in Imperial and Coachella valleys. Though saltier than the Pacific ocean, the Salton Sea supports an abundance of fish, a food source for millions of migratory birds on the Pacific flyway. Managing the sea's natural, agricultural and municipal water inflows would allow California to protect regional health, ecological wealth and a stable water supply. Last year, California's Natural Resources Agency received 11 proposals to increase water flow to the sea in order to reduce dust and dust-borne toxins. Additionally, legislation to create a new EPA grant program for the New River, a severely polluted river which flows north from Mexico, exacerbating the problem, was reintroduced this year. The board will raise this issue for discussion as well. *(Contact: Andrew Hanson)*

Mayors Water Council to Convene in Columbus, OH

The US Conference of Mayors' Mayors Water Council will meet March 28 -29 to discuss priority policy issues of concern to the communities they represent. Mayors Jill Techel (Napa, CA) and David J. Berger (Lima, OH) are Council Co-Chairs. On March 29, Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Linda Holst, Deputy Director, Water Division, Region V, and Tiffani Kavelec, Chief, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water will participate in a policy discussion with mayors on "Implementing Integrated Planning." Mayor Berger will Chair the session and pose critical questions concerning implementation of the new Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (PL 115-436). According to the MWC, there is interest from mayors around the nation in how Regional EPA and delegated State water permitting programs will respond to the new law.

The Council appreciates the continuing work with EPA on USCM policies addressing Integrated Planning and Permitting, Green Infrastructure promotion, and modified Financial Capability assessment. In the invitation letter, Co-Chairs Techel and Berger noted that USCM member mayors look forward to continuing this engagement so the spirit of flexibility that they believe motivated Congress to adopt HR 7279 by overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support can be maintained. The convening will also focus on additional topics, including: "Defining Water and Sewer Affordability;" Renewable Energy and Water Infrastructure; Lead and Copper Rule-USEPA and the Michigan Experience; Emerging Rules – review of PFAS, Perchlorate, and WOTUS. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

Meeting with Eastern Municipal Water District (CA)

On Monday, April 1, District General Manager Paul Jones, and other representatives will meet with Jeff Lape, Deputy Director, Office of Science and Technology (OW), OIR, and Region IX, to discuss the EPA's Water Reuse Action Plan. EMWD provides water, wastewater, and recycled water services to 816,000 residents in a 555 square mile region of western Riverside County encompassing the cities of Hemet, San Jacinto, Moreno Valley, Perris, Menifee, Murrieta, Temecula, and several unincorporated rural communities. EMWD serves more than 250,000 domestic customers and approximately 130 agricultural customers. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

Meeting with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Sanitation District (Calabasas, CA)

On Tuesday, April 2, Jay Lewitt, President, Board of Directors, and a team of District officials will meet with EPA to discuss the District's water recycling projects, and WIFIA. Region IX will join OW and OIR for the meeting. The representatives will highlight several projects that may be eligible to apply for WIFIA funding. They will also be interested in EPA's Water Reuse Action Plan. The dialogue will facilitate guidance from both headquarters the region. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

Meeting with Sherwood, Oregon

On Wednesday, April 3, Sherwood, Oregon Mayor Keith Mays, and the City's IT Director, Brad Crawford, will meet with EPA to discuss potential Brownfields Program support. The City is interested in Brownfields Cleanup funding to clean up, and return to productive reuse, two contaminated lots associated with a former leather tannery site. In 2014, the City was awarded a Brownfields Assessment Grant to identify the source and extent of the contamination, and prepare the properties for cleanup and ultimate reuse. With the assessment complete, the City is in discussions to acquire the property to help facilitate the cleanup. The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization will join OIR and Region X for the meeting. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

WOTUS Briefing with NGA and Governors' Offices

On Thursday, March 21, EPA and the Army Corps will meet with the National Governors' Association and Governors' DC representatives to provide an overview and receive feedback on the WOTUS proposal. Ryan Fisher, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water, and Dr. Owen McDonough, Senior Science Advisor for the Office of Water will lead the discussion. *(Contact: Becky Cook-Shyovitz)*

Waters of the U.S. Engagement

EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers are continuing to engage with state, tribal, and local governments as well as other stakeholders on the proposed rule for the revised definition of Waters of the U.S. EPA and the Army have created targeted opportunities for state co-regulators engagements, including a February 26rd states meeting in Kansas City, Kansas, a March 11th states meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, a March 26th states meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a states meeting April 3rd in Seattle, Washington. Other state and local engagements are described elsewhere. On December 11, 2018, EPA and the Department of the Army signed a proposed rule to clarify federal authority under the Clean Water Act, which was the second step in a two-part process to review and revise the definition of WOTUS consistent with the February 2017 Presidential Executive Order entitled "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the Waters of the United States Rule." The proposed definition would replace the approach of the 2015 rule and pre-2015 regulations. The proposed rule was published February 14, 2019 and the comment period is open until April 15, 2019. *(Contact: Becky Cook-Shyovitz)*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The **LGAC Spring meeting** will be held **May 2nd-3rd** at EPA's East Building 1153 Hearing room. A New Members Orientation session is planned for May 2nd for new and returning Members. The public meeting will feature Senior EPA officials and a panel of Assistant Administrators from the EPA Program offices. Invitations are currently out for speakers. The LGAC Workgroups focal topics and agenda are continuing to develop. An

Intergovernmental Forum with guest speakers of national intergovernmental organizations is planned on May 2nd which will focus on risk communication and local governments. *(Contact: Fran Eargle)*

LGAC 2019 Membership Solicitation - EPA Regions and Headquarters and intergovernmental organizations have submitted their nominations to be considered for the Local Government Advisory Committee. We are in the process of compiling nominations from the public and will soon begin scoring and ranking of the nominees. The Committee currently is chartered for 30 members. We are looking to appoint or reappoint approximately **10-12 LGAC Members** in 2019. *(Contact: Fran Eargle).*

LGAC Water Workgroup will met on **Monday, March 18th**, to begin work on their Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) charge questions. Participating in their meeting was Britt Carter, Director, OCIR's Intergovernmental Relations, John Goodin, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW), and Mindy Eisenberg, OWOW. The Workgroup's kick-off discussion focused on overall comments on the proposed rule, the ditch exclusion and engagement with state and locals on implementation. The Workgroup will meet next on **April 1st, 4:30-5:30 p.m.** continuing work on the WOTUS charge. The Water Workgroup intends to invite key intergovernmental organizations for this meeting to gain their perspectives on WOTUS to help in assisting with their charge. Vice-chair Jeff Witte will also lead a discussion on the agricultural provisions of the proposed rule. *(Contact: Fran Eargle)*

The **Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)** is holding a teleconference on **Thursday, March 21, 2019**, during which they will be introduced to Britt Carter, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, and learned about recent EPA actions and priorities. In addition, the SCAS discussed potential advice and recommendations on the proposed redefinition of *Waters of the U.S.* and harmful algal blooms. *(Contact: Cristina Mercurio]*

RECAP

EPA Meeting with Port of Hueneme (CA)

On Wednesday, March 20, EPA met with Jess Herrera, President, Kristin Decas, CEO, and Cameron Spencer, Public & Government Relations Manager for the Port of Hueneme Commission to receive updates on the Commission's Shore Side Power Project (a \$14 million system), and other successes in reducing emissions around the Port made possible with DERA Program support, and other Federal/State/Local partnerships, including those from the EDA, and DOT's Tiger Grant. The Shore Side Power Project is in line with the State's requirements that ports have land-based power available to reduce pollution coming from docked container and cruise ships. Region IX awarded a \$500,000 grant in April 2014 to help with the second phase of the Project. The Project, as expected, not only improves air quality, but also allows the port to better compete for business in the international market.

The Port of Hueneme is the only deep water harbor between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area, and is the U.S. Port of Entry for California's central coast region. It serves international businesses and ocean carriers from the Pacific Rim and Europe. Joining OIR for the meeting were: OAR's Jennifer Keller, Director, Legacy Fleets Incentives and Assessment Center (Diesel Emission Reduction Program/Office of Transportation & Air Quality (OTAQ), and Region IX's Ben Machol, P.E., Manager, Technology & Partnerships Office; Penny McDaniel, Director, U.S.-China Green Ports and Vessels Initiative Lead, West Coast Collaborative & DERA, Technology & Partnerships Office; and, Francisco Donez, Environmental Protection Specialist, Air Division. The representatives have met in the past with EPA to discuss a number of projects under its Environmental Framework. This comprehensive effort focuses on climate change, marine resources, air

quality, water quality, and sediments, among other areas. The Commission continues its aggressive and innovative programs under the Framework, including a Clean Air Plan, Stormwater Management, and a host of others. The Port has been recognized nationally for its outstanding work, including a 2017 Greenest US Port Award, and an Environmental Stewardship Award that same year. The Commission has also been recognized for its initiatives aimed at GHG Reduction, promoting Green Fleets, and its substantial investment in the community – including a Port Internship program for High School students. The Commission also has been recognized for its integration of Climate Change impacts into construction plans, as well as its programs that promote Sustainability. The Commission has instituted a \$1 million Retrofitting Program for Ships, and 9 retrofits have been completed to date. EPA staff applauded the continuing leadership and work of the Port Commission, and Region IX especially appreciated that the Shore Side Project is yielding results. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

Meeting with Mayor Levesque, Auburn, Maine

OCIR facilitated a meeting with **Mayor Jason Levesque, Auburn, Maine**, on **March 13, 2019**, based on a request from Senator Collins' office, to learn about the growth of harmful algal blooms (HABs) on Lake Auburn, and implications regarding drinking water treatment. The meeting included staff from the Office of Senator Collins, Region 1, OW, ORD and OCIR. EPA will follow-up with written materials covering the topics discussed. EPA shared information on tools for managing HABs, including a recommendations document for cyanotoxin management, a risk communication toolbox, and the EPA's Algal Toxin Strategic Plan. EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) Program provided information on Maine's SRF and identifying resources to support engineering studies/analyses on options for treatment systems. *(Contact: Cristina Mercurio)*